

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 52-53 are newly added herein. All pending claims and their present status are produced below.

1-20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented) In a settlement server capable of communicating over Internet with a local Internet service provider and a home Internet service provider, a computer implemented method for settlement of charges for Internet connection services, comprising:

the settlement server receiving, from the local Internet service provider over the Internet, accounting records of a user's Internet connection service usage of a network of the local Internet service provider, the local Internet service provider operated independently from the home Internet service provider of the user, the user not having an account with the local Internet service provider but having an account with the home Internet service provider and connecting to the Internet via the local Internet service provider;

the settlement server filtering the accounting records to remove erroneous data;

the settlement server collecting the accounting records for a period of time;

the settlement server generating a report of service usage for the period of time; and

the settlement server transmitting the report of service usage to the home Internet service provider over the Internet.

22. (previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21, wherein generating a report of service usage for the period of time comprises:

categorizing the accounting records by the home Internet service provider; and

aggregating the accounting records corresponding to the period of time.

23. (previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21 wherein generating a report of service usage for the period of time comprises:

categorizing the accounting records by the local Internet service provider; and

aggregating the accounting records corresponding to the period of time.

24. (previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 22, further comprising:

categorizing the accounting records by the user.

25. (previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 23, further comprising:

categorizing the accounting records by the user.

26. (previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21 wherein filtering the accounting records to remove erroneous data comprises:

removing duplicate records.

27. (previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21 wherein filtering the accounting records to remove erroneous data comprises:

removing irrelevant data from the accounting records.

28. (previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21 further comprising:

multipling the time period the user was provided service by the local Internet service provider by a rate corresponding to a rate negotiated by the user's home Internet service provider.

29. (previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21 further comprising:

categorizing the time the user was provided service by geographic location; and multiplying the time in each geographic location by a rate corresponding to charges for service in each geographic location for the user's home Internet service provider.

30. (previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21, further comprising:

categorizing the time period the user was provided service by the local Internet service provider; and multiplying the time the user was provided service by the local Internet service provider by a rate corresponding to charges for using the local Internet service provider for the user's home Internet service provider.

31. (previously presented) A central settlement server for settling charges for Internet connection services, the central settlement server capable of communicating over Internet with a local Internet service provider and a home Internet service provider, the central settlement server comprising:

a loader for receiving, from the local Internet service provider over the Internet, accounting records of a user's Internet connection service usage of a network

of the local Internet service provider, the local Internet service provider operated independently from the home Internet service provider of the user, the user not having an account with the local Internet service provider but having an account with the home Internet service provider and connecting to the Internet via the local Internet service provider;

a filter, coupled to the loader, to generate filtered accounting records by removing erroneous data from the accounting records received by the loader; and

a reporting module, coupled to the filter, for generating reports from the filtered accounting records to be sent to the home Internet service provider over the Internet.

32. (previously presented) A central settlement server for settling charges for Internet connection services, the central settlement server capable of communicating over Internet with a local Internet service provider and a home Internet service provider, the central settlement server comprising:

a loader for receiving, from the local Internet service provider over the Internet, raw accounting records of a user's Internet connection service usage of a network of the local Internet service provider, the local Internet service provider operated independently from the home Internet service provider of the user, the user not having an account with the local Internet service provider but having an account with the home Internet service provider and connecting to the Internet via the local Internet service provider;

a raw records database, coupled to the loader, for storing the raw accounting records;

a filter, coupled to the raw records database, to generate filtered accounting records by removing erroneous data from the raw accounting records stored in the raw records database;

a roaming history database, coupled to the filter, for storing the filtered accounting records; and

a reporting module, coupled to the roaming history database, for generating reports from the filtered accounting records to be sent to the home Internet service provider over the Internet.

33. (previously presented) The central settlement server of claim 31, wherein the reporting module further comprises:

a rating means for adding service rate information to the accounting records.

34. (previously presented) The central settlement server of claim 31, wherein the loader further comprises:

a transformation means for arranging fields in the accounting records into a predetermined format.

35. (previously presented) The central settlement server of claim 31, wherein the filter further comprises:

a means for removing duplicate records.

36. (previously presented) The central settlement server of claim 32, wherein the reporting module further comprises:

a rating means for adding service rate information to the accounting records.

37. (previously presented) The central settlement server of claim 32, wherein the loader further comprises:

a transformation means for arranging fields in the accounting records into a predetermined format.

38. (previously presented) The central settlement server of claim 32, wherein the filter further comprises:

a means for removing duplicate records.

39. (previously presented) Computer readable storage device having computer readable code embodied thereon, the computer readable code for programming one or more computers to perform a method for settlement of charges for Internet connection services in a settlement server capable of communicating over Internet with a local Internet service provider and a home Internet service provider, the method comprising:

the settlement server receiving, from the local Internet service provider over the Internet, accounting records of a user's Internet connection service usage of a network of the local Internet service provider, the local Internet service provider operated independently from the home Internet service provider of the user, the user not having an account with the local Internet service provider but having an account with the home Internet service provider and connecting to the Internet via the local Internet service provider;

the settlement server filtering the accounting records to remove erroneous data;

the settlement server collecting the accounting records for a period of time;

the settlement server generating a report of service usage for the period of time; and

the settlement server transmitting the aggregated accounting records to the home Internet service provider over the Internet.

40. (previously presented) The computer readable storage device of claim 39, wherein generating a report of service usage for the period of time comprises: categorizing the accounting records by the home Internet service provider; and aggregating the accounting records corresponding to the period of time.

41. (previously presented) The computer readable storage device of claim 39, wherein generating a report of service usage for the period of time comprises: categorizing the accounting records by the local Internet service provider; and aggregating the accounting records corresponding to the period of time.

42. (previously presented) The computer readable storage device of claim 39, further comprising: multiplying the time the user was provided service by the local Internet service provider by a rate corresponding to the rate negotiated by the user's home Internet service provider.

43. (previously presented) In a settlement server capable of communicating over Internet with a local Internet service provider and a home Internet service provider, a computer implemented method for settlement of charges for Internet connection services, the method comprising:

the settlement server receiving, from the local Internet service provider over the Internet, accounting records of a user's Internet connection service usage of a network of the local Internet service provider, the local Internet service

provider operated independently from the home Internet service provider of the user, the user not having an account with the local Internet service provider but having an account with the home Internet service provider and connecting to the Internet via the local Internet service provider; the settlement server generating a service usage report based upon the received accounting records; and the settlement server transmitting the service usage report to the home Internet service provider over the Internet.

44. (original) The computer implemented method of claim 43, wherein the accounting records are received from the local Internet service provider over the Internet using User Datagram Protocol (UDP).

45. (original) The computer implemented method of claim 43, wherein the service usage report is transmitted to the home Internet service provider over the Internet using File Transfer Protocol (FTP).

46. (previously presented) A central settlement server for settling charges for Internet connection services, the central settlement server capable of communicating over Internet with a local Internet service provider and a home Internet service provider, the central settlement server comprising:

a loader for receiving, from the local Internet service provider over the Internet, accounting records of a user's Internet connection service usage of a network of the local Internet service provider, the local Internet service provider operated independently from the home Internet service provider of the user,

the user not having an account with the local Internet service provider but having an account with the home Internet service provider and connecting to the Internet via the local Internet service provider; and a reporting module for generating service usage reports from the received accounting records and transmitting the service usage reports to the local Internet service provider over the Internet.

47. (original) The central settlement server of claim 46, wherein the loader receives the accounting records from the local Internet service provider over the Internet using User Datagram Protocol (UDP).

48. (original) The central settlement server of claim 46, wherein the reporting module transmits the service usage reports to the home Internet service provider over the Internet using File Transfer Protocol (FTP).

49. (previously presented) A computer program product stored on a computer readable medium and adapted to cause a computer to perform a method for settlement of charges for Internet connection services in a settlement server capable of communicating over Internet with a local Internet service provider and a home Internet service provider, the method comprising:

the settlement server receiving, from the local Internet service provider over the Internet, accounting records of a user's Internet connection service usage of a network of the local Internet service provider, the local Internet service provider operated independently from the home Internet service provider of the user, the user not having an account with the local Internet service

provider but having an account with the home Internet service provider and connecting to the Internet via the local Internet service provider; the settlement server generating a service usage report based upon the received accounting records; and the settlement server transmitting the service usage report to the home Internet service provider over the Internet.

50. (original) The computer program product of claim 49, wherein the accounting records are received from the local Internet service provider over the Internet using User Datagram Protocol (UDP).

51. (original) The computer program product of claim 49, wherein the service usage report is transmitted to the home Internet service provider over the Internet using File Transfer Protocol (FTP).

52. (new) The computer implemented method of claim 43, wherein the settlement server receives the accounting records from the local Internet service provider via a routing server.

53. (new) The central settlement server of claim 46, wherein the loader receives the accounting records from the local Internet service provider via a routing server.